Conversion of Coal to Liquid

1586. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:-

(a) whether India is negotiating with a South African company having technology for converting coal to liquid (CTL), for setting up units in India for converting coal to petroleum products; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the stage of the negotiations likely annual production of petroleum products, the places where production units are proposed to be set up and the price to be paid by India for the products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) A delegation from M/s. SASOL, a South African company with expertise in conversion of coal to liquid, had visited India in early 2006 and had preliminary discussions with Coal India Limited for setting up a Coal Gasification-cum Liquefaction Plant. Coal India Limited has shown its interest. Response from SASOL is awaited.

Retail Outlets in Andhra Pradesh

1587. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of retail outlets of Public Sector Companies in Andhra Pradesh as on date, company-wise;

(b) the number out of them allotted to SCs/STs/OBCs, category-wise company-wise;

(c) whether the reserved quota for above said categories has been completed;

(d) if not, the reasons therefore; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken to ensure completion of reserved quota by the oil companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) As on 30.6.2006, there were 2,479 retail outlet (RO) dealerships of public sector oil

marketing companies (OMCs) viz., Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPC) and IBP Co. Limited (IBP), in operation in the State of Andhra Pradesh. Out of these, 259 ROs were allotted to Scheduled Castes (SC) category and 99 ROs to Scheduled Tribes (ST) category. As per policy guidelines of OMCs for selection of dealers/ distributors, there is no provision for any reservation to 'Other Backward Classes' (OBC) category.

The company-wise break-up is as under:—

Name of OMC	SCs	STs	others	Total
IOC	144	52	687	883
HPC	45	18	618	681
BPC	54	18	561	633
IBP	16	11	255	282
TOTAL :	259	99	2121	2479

(c) to (e) No sir. As per dealer selection guidelines of the OMCs, the reservation for dealerships/distributorships for SC/ST category is 25%. Dealerships reserved under SC/ST category are progressed under Corpus Fund Scheme, wherein it is OMCs' responsibility to procure land and develop various facilities at the site. The main reason for having a backlog is inadequate response to OMCs' advertisements for procurement of land for setting up of ROs. Besides making efforts to procure land for setting up of such ROs, OMCs also plan to offer some of their Company-Owned-Company-Operated (COCO) ROs to Letter of Intent (LOI)-holders under SC/ST category, subject to suitability.

Allocation of Kerosene to Gujarat

†1588. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of Kerosene Oil Central Government allocate to the State Government of Gujarat to be given on one ration card;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.